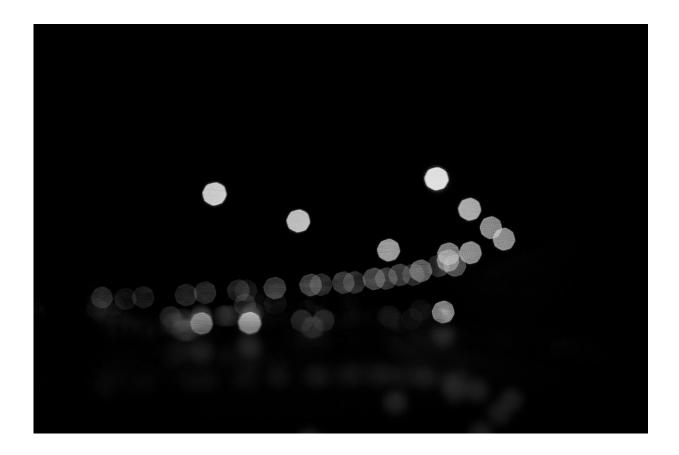


Most people don't know how to get out of a sinking vehicle

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Credit: CC0 Public Domain

How to get out of a submerging vehicle isn't common knowledge according to a recent report in *Injury Epidemiology*.



The Faculty of Kinesiology and Recreation Management-based study found a majority of people had <u>knowledge</u> of vehicle submersions from the media, but they were unaware of an effective self-rescue protocol.

Vehicle submersions account for up to 10 percent of all drownings in high-income countries. Reports indicate that occupants may be conscious and functional, but possibly making incorrect decisions for self-rescue leading to drowning.

The study investigated current public knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding vehicle submersion incidents and to determine if individuals, who are aware of <u>educational efforts</u> regarding vehicle submersions, indicated better responses.

According to the recently published article, a majority of respondents had knowledge of vehicle submersions from the media, but they were not aware of an effective self-rescue protocol.

"Even though the probability of being in a vehicle submersion is low, this type of accident has one of the highest mortality rates of any type of single-vehicle accident, and death by drowning is usually preventable," says Gerren McDonald, the study's co-author and University of Manitoba Applied Health Sciences Ph.D. student.

McDonald adds that passengers have only about one minute to self-exit from a sinking <u>vehicle</u>; they should not rely on calling emergency dispatch.

"Simply increasing public knowledge of SWOC [SEATBELTS off, WINDOWS open, OUT immediately, CHILDREN first] would help to decrease the high fatality rate associated with this type of road traffic accident."



More information: Gerren K. McDonald et al. Public knowledge, attitudes and practices of vehicle submersion incidents: a pilot study, *Injury Epidemiology* (2019). DOI: 10.1186/s40621-019-0192-0

Provided by University of Manitoba

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